

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04090 01 OF 02 201415Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 SAA-01 OPR-02  
A-01 SY-05 MCT-02 SSM-03 /099 W  
-----116864 201428Z /50

O P 201307Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8796  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 4090

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 20, 1400 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4063 (DTG 181328Z JUL 78)

1. SUMMARY. THE CEASE FIRE IS GENERALLY HOLDING. THERE ARE  
SIGNS OF DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE  
THE NEXT STEPS TOWARD SECURITY. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
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KAHDDAM'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO BEIRUT HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN POST-  
PONED UNTIL AT LEAST NEXT WEEK. THE PRESS REPORTED A "POSITIVE"  
MEETING BETWEEN ADF AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA REPRESENTATIVES.  
OTHER REPORTING, HOWEVER, CASTS SOME DOUBT ON THIS STORY.  
BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIMS ISSUED UNCOMPROMISING STATEMENTS TO  
THE PRESS. THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT CONTINUED EFFORTS TO  
BUILD UP AN "ANTI-PARTITION FRONT." ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS

REPORT, EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO PERSUADE RAYMOND EDDE TO RETURN TO LEBANON TO BE "THE BACKBONE" OF THE ANTI-PARTITION FORCES.

2. SECURITY SITUATION:

THE CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD IN GENERAL. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS AT YARZE REPORTED HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE AND SOME MORTAR FIRE LATE 19 JULY IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH-SHIAH AREA. A GARBAGE COLLECTOR WAS INJURED BY ONE OF TWO BOMBS WHICH EXPLODED NEAR HAMRA STREET EARLY ON THE 19TH (SEE JULY 19 SIT-REP). A THIRD BOMB IN THE AREA WAS DISCOVERED AND DISARMED, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE PRESS CONTINUES TO RUN STORIES AND PICTURES ON THE INSERTION OF LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS INTO THE PORT AREA. NEVERTHELESS, CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN ARE STILL ABLE TO PREVENT ENTRY INTO THE PORT. FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER BOUTROS SPECIFICALLY DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF ANY "SECURITY PLAN" FOR BEIRUT.

3. SIGNS OF DISAGREEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT:

A. CONFLICTING STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS CAST DOUBT ON A STATEMENT BY HEALTH MINISTER CHEITO THAT "THERE IS TOTAL HARMONY AMONG THE MINISTERS." PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT 19 JULY, AFTER THE FIRST CABINET MEETING SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION THREAT. THE STATEMENT DID NOT INCLUDE ANY SPECIFIC ACTIONS  
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AGREED UPON TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS MADE IN A SPEECH JULY 15. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "WE NATURALLY DISCUSSED THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE BEING MADE TO ESTABLISH STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE COUNTRY."

B. BOUTROS HAS REPORTERS READ THE TEXT OF THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT TO HIM. HE THEN STATED ONLY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT WAS "TO A LARGE EXTENT, THE TRUTH." BOUTROS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FORMULATED A SECURITY PLAN AND THAT HE HAD "NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ARMY FORMATIONS OR ANYTHING ELSE WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO NEW DUTIES FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY."

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SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 SAA-01 OPR-02  
A-01 SY-05 MCT-02 SSM-03 /099 W  
-----116560 201429Z /50

O P 201307Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8797  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 4090

C. THIS, OF COURSE, DOES NOT FIT WITH THE STATEMENT OF  
PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER KAMAL ASAD WHO EMERGED FROM A MEETING  
WITH THE PRESIDENT ON 19 JULY TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE EXPECTED  
THE ARMY TO MOVE TO SOUTH LEBANON "WITHIN DAYS." THE PHALANGE  
PARTY'S "VOICE OF LEBANON" CLAIMED THAT A PLAN SET FORTH BY  
THE PRESIDENT AND THE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER HAD BEEN  
BLOCKED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO INSISTED ON ADHERENCE TO  
THE CAIRO AND SHTAWRA ACCORDS WITH THE PALESTINIANS AND WHO  
OPPOSED MOVEMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO THE SOUTH UNTILL  
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MAJOR SAAD HADDAD AND CAPTAIN SAMI SHIDIAC WERE DISMISSED  
FROM THE ARMY.

#### 4. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTED ON JULY 20 THAT A VISIT OF SYRIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO BEIRUT, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR  
JULY 21 OR 22, HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AT LEAST NEXT WEEK.

5. REPORTED MEETING BETWEEN MILITIAS AND ADF.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY "IKE" CITED "RELIABLE SOURCES" FOR A REPORT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTIES HAD MET ON 19 JULY WITH OFFICERS OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE COMMAND. THE PAPER REPORTED THAT CONFEREES DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS "POSITIVE" AND SAID THAT DISCUSSION CENTERED ON THE "SECURITY PLAN WHICH INVOLVES THE REPLACEMENT OF ADF UNITS AND LEBANESE FRONT MILITIAMEN WITH LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES." FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER BOUTROS' STATEMENT THAT NO SECURITY PLAN EXISTS CASTS SOME DOUBT ON THIS REPORT.

6. CONTINUED HARDLINE STATEMENTS BY RIGHTIST LEADER.

FORMER PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID JULY 19 THAT UNLESS THE COMING VISIT OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM RESULTS IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCES FROM BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS, IT "MAY MEAN THE BEGINNING OF NEW DIFFICULTIES WHICH WE HOPE EVERYONE WILL AVOID." CHAMOUN SAID WITHDRAWAL OF THE ADF WAS "THE ONLY REASONABLE SOLUTION."

7. MUSLIM DEMAND FOR ADF CRUSHING OF MILITIAS.

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THE MAKASSED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, A GROUP OF MUSLIM GRADUATES, ACCORDING TO "IKE", "ISSUED A STATEMENT DEMANDING THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS, AS COMMANDER OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES, ORDER THE ADF TO 'COMB' ALL PARTS OF LEBANON TO RID IT OF ALL MILITIAS AND ESTABLISH STATE AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY. THE RECENT CLASHES IN BEIRUT, THE ASSOCIATION SAID, MAY HAVE YIELDED ONE GOOD RESULT: THEY HAVE AWAKENED LEBANESE PUBLIC OPINION TO THE NEED TO RID LEBANON OF FASCIST PARTIES TRYING TO UNDERMINE ITS SECURITY, STABILITY AND UNITY.' THE STATEMENT ALSO DEMANDED THE REBUILDING OF THE LEBANESE ARMY ON A SOUND NATIONAL FOUNDATION."

8. PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER CONTINUES EFFORTS TO BUILD AN "ANTI-PARTITION FRONT."

THE PRESS REPORTED THAT HOUSE SPEAKER KAMAL ASAD CONTINUED CONTACTS WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES AND OTHER POLITICIANS IN AN EFFORT TO "GROUP ALL FORCES WHICH BELIEVE IN A UNIFIED LEBANON AND ARE IN FAVOR OF UNCHALLENGED STATE AUTHORITY." "IKE" REPORTED THAT EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO PERSUADE DEPUTY RAYMOND EDDE TO RETURN TO LEBANON TO "BECOME THE BACKBONE OF A NEW MULTI-SECTION 'ANTI-PARTITION' POLITICAL ALLIANCE." PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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